

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 PRS-01

SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 /055 W

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O P 092200Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2254

INFO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO PRIORITY

INS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0263

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MX

SUBJECT: POLITICALASYLUM REQUEST: CARLOS ARMANDO BIEBRICH

REF 75 MEXICO 9444

1. AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO ADVISES THAT FORMER GOVERNOR OF SONORA STATE CARLOS ARMANDO BEIBRICH WHO RESIGNED THE OFFICE UNDER PRESSURE OBVIOUSLY INSTIGATED FROM MEXICO CITY (I.E., WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA APPROVAL) LAST OCT. 25 (REF) HAS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM AT AN INS OFFICE IN THE U.S. HERMOSILLO REPORTS THAT BIEBRICH ALLEGEDLY TRIED TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES WITH ECHEVERRIA AND WHEN THAT FAILED ENTERED THE U.S. ON TOURIST VISA. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN A CHANCE MEETING WITH ARIZONA GOVERNOR RAUL CASTRO, BIEBRICH INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ASYLUM IN U.S. AND WAS PUT IN CONTACT WITH INS DISTRICT DIRECTOR AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA. HERMOSILLO ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT INS DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT BIEBRICH QUALIFIES AS POLITICAL REFUGEE BUT HAS GRANTED HIM "THREE MONTHS SATISFACTORY DEPARTURE" STATUS, WHICH MEANS HE CAN STAY IN U.S. AN ADDITIONAL NINETY DAYS WITHOUT DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS BEING INSTIGATED. AT END OF THREE MONTHS, HE CAN APPLY FOR PROLONGATION OF THAT STAY.

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2. ON JAN. 9 EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM LOCAL AP WHO SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD BEIBRICH APPLIED DEC. 15 FOR ASYLUM AT SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE AND THAT REQUEST WAS REFUSED. IF THAT IS CORRECT, BIEBRICH MAY SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE SOUGHT OUT GOVERNOR CASTRO WITH WHOM HE HAD A BORDER STATE RELATIONSHIP WHILE GOV OF SONORA.

3. HERMOSILLO HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT BIEBRICH WAS UNDER JUDICIAL ORDER TO APPEAR IN HERMOSILLO COURT JAN. 8 TO TESTIFY CONCERNING ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN HANDLING OF PUBLIC MONIES WHILE HE WAS STILL GOVERNOR. BIEBRICH DID NOT APPEAR. HERMOSILLO 12 IS BEING REPEATED TO DEPT.

4. COMMENT: ESSENTIALLY BIEBRICH FELL OUT OF FAVOR WITH ECHEVERRIA FOR REASONS NOT FULLY KNOWN TO US AND SONORA STATE GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING UP WITH INVESTIGATION MENTIONED ABOVE. THIS IS PATTERN WITNESSED LAST YEAR WHEN GUERRERO GOVERNOR NOGUEDA WAS THROWN OUT OF OFFICE. NOGUEDA IS PRESENTLY FUGITIVE AT LARGE. ISSUE HAS POTENTIAL FOR AFFECTING US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. WE DO NOT KNOW EXTENT TO WHICH GOM SUPPORTS SONORA STATE INVESTIGATION, BUT STATE AUTHORITIES RARELY ACT AUTONOMOUSLY IN THESE MATTERS. WE SUGGEST DEPT CONSULT WITH INS TO DETERMINE STATUS OF MATTER. IF BIEBRICH HAS IN FACT BEEN GRANTED THREE MONTHS ADDITIONAL STAY, THIS COULD WELL BE SUFFICIENT TIME TO DETERMINE WHETHER GENUINE GOM INTEREST IN CASE EXISTS (WE HAVE HAD NO COMMUNICATION WITH GOM REGARDING BIEBRICH) AND SUFFICIENT TIME FOR BIEBRICH TO WORK OUT HIS FUTURE PLANS. IF WE RECEIVE FURTHER PRESS QUERIES, WE INTEND TO REFER THEM TO WASHINGTON, EXPLAINING THAT REQUEST FOR ASYLUM MADE FROM WITHIN U.S. IS NOT WITHIN OUR COMPETENCE.

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